



News Release

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Contact:

David Neville

Tobacco Prevention and Control Program

(o) 801-538-6917 (m) 801-386-1316

The TRUTH Sponsors Haunted House *Castle of Chaos director shares tale of addiction*

SALT LAKE CITY – Because the truth about tobacco is more frightening than any ghost, the Utah Department of Health Tobacco Program is sponsoring several activities this Halloween season at the Castle of Chaos in Salt Lake City.

The TRUTH sponsorship includes a murder-mystery game that asks guests to gather cards representing the chemicals found in cigarettes to create an imaginary, poisonous concoction that will destroy an evil vampire. In addition, a pair of smoker's lungs is on display while an actor pretends to beg for money to buy cigarettes.

John Cluff, production director for Castle of Chaos, is passionate about tobacco prevention because his former smoking habit worsened a chronic illness. Cluff has sarcoidosis—expected to be fatal in his case—which is a disease that causes lumps to form inside the organs. A former Hollywood production expert, Cluff worked on such movies as *Planet of the Apes* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

“I was a stress smoker and at my peak I would smoke four packs of cigarettes a day,” said Cluff. “I’d often light up the next cigarette before I’d even finished the last one.”

“Tobacco use is a truly terrifying addiction,” says David Neville, marketing coordinator for The TRUTH. “Tobacco smoke contains 4,000 chemicals like formaldehyde, tar and nicotine. At least 40 of the chemicals are known to cause cancer.”

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Nationally, every day more than 1,500 people under the age of 18 become regular smokers. About one-third of them will eventually die from a tobacco-related disease. More than 230,000 Utahns continue to use tobacco and more than 1,100 die annually as a result of their own smoking.

Confidential help is available to help smokers quit through the Utah Tobacco Quit Line at 1.888.567.TRUTH or Utah Quit Net at www.UtahQuitNet.com.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.